Indian and Northern Affairs Canada / Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

NWT Plain Talk

On Land and Self-government

Spring 2004

*There are a number of ways for a community to access benefits related to resource activities in the Mackenzie Valley. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) has developed some tools to help people understand the different kinds of plans and agreements that may apply. Read the story below to find out more.*

# *Plain Talk* on how communities can benefit from Resource Development Activities

There are a number of ways for a community to access benefits related to resource activities in the Mackenzie Valley. The difficulty can be in understanding which plan or agreement applies to a certain project because there are a number of separate and distinct tools that can be used. For example, some are legislated, others are not. Some fall under the responsibility of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), others come under the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and others are between the company and the community. Some agreements and plans are intended for mining related activities while others are used for oil and gas activities. This feature of *Plain Talk* is meant to help readers understand what the different kinds of plans and agreements are and how they work.

A **Benefits Plan** describes employment and business opportunities resulting from the proposed resource activity and outlines how the company will address them. It involves the company in consultation with the community and applies to oil and gas exploration and development activities, and to pipeline development solely within the NWT. A benefits plan is legislated under the *Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act* and requires the DIAND Minister's approval. For more information, contact the Petroleum Development Division of DIAND at (867) 669-2618.

A contractual agreement between a company and affected Aboriginal organizations that are landowners and control access to lands is called an **Access Agreement**. This agreement outlines terms and conditions, including financial arrangements, for access on or through land with Aboriginal interest. Access Agreements may also include details on benefits. In some areas these agreements are legislated under land claims and in other areas they are voluntary agreements between groups. For more information, contact your regional land claim or Aboriginal organization.

A **Socio-Economic Agreement** is also a contractual agreement that deals with commitments for employment, training and business opportunities and includes commitments with respect to community and cultural well-being. This type of agreement is negotiated between the company and the territorial government and focuses on impacted communities. It is generally only negotiated for large scale development projects. Socio-economic agreements are not legislated, though they are an increasingly expected practice.

For more information, contact the Industrial Initiatives Division of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED), GNWT at (867) 873-8691, and/or your local RWED office.

An **Impact Benefits Agreement** is a contractual agreement that is confidential and generally covers cash payments, scholarships, as well as employment, training and business opportunities. This is negotiated between the company and affected Aboriginal organizations as specified in land claims or other processes. Typically, an impact benefits agreement applies to mining activities at the development stage, though it has also been negotiated at the production stage. It may be called a "participation agreement" as is the case with the Diavik Diamond Mine. For more information, contact the Mineral Development Division of DIAND at (867) 669-2571, or your regional land claim or Aboriginal organization.

To help spread the word about these different plans and agreements, DIAND has created a **poster and postcard** explaining them. To get a copy, please contact DIAND's Communications, Marketing and Consultation Directorate at (867) 669-2576.

The purpose of our newsletter is to keep you informed on the progress of land and self-government negotiations in the Northwest Territories, and to provide some answers to frequently asked questions. We also feature the people and communities involved in negotiations, celebrate milestones, and announce upcoming events. On behalf of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), we hope you will find our newsletter informative and easy to read.

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The latest buzz on the Net...a

# Youth Buzz

If you are a student working on a project about the people, the land or the water of the Northwest Territories, there is a website that is perfect for you! If you are a teacher, you'll find plenty of ideas for your classroom there too.

The site is called Youth Buzz and it was created by the NWT Regional office of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) especially for students and teachers in the NWT. Been there and didn't find what you needed, you say? Look again! Youth Buzz now features a brand new look and loads of new content.

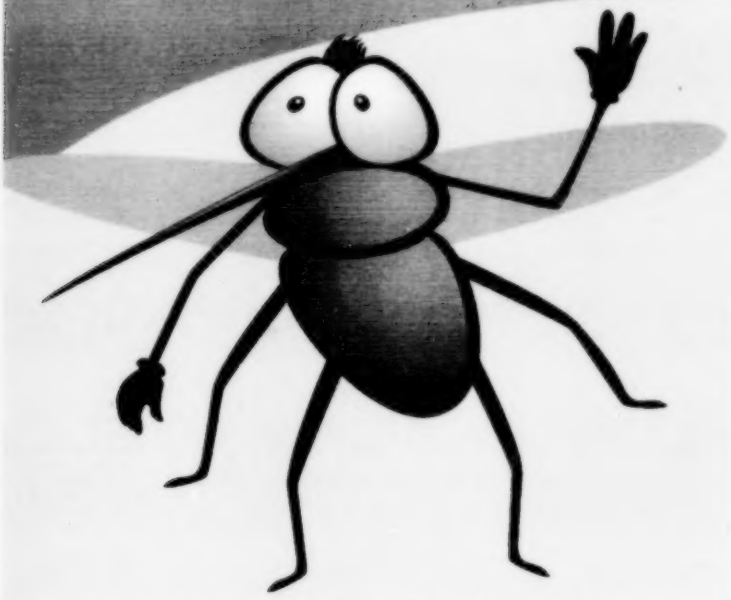
Youth Buzz has lots of easy-to-find and easy-to-read information about the NWT, including what DIAND is doing to make the North a better place for Aboriginal people and all Northerners.

But that's not all! Youth Buzz is also a great source of information about the many distinct cultures and traditions of Northern aboriginal peoples. Find out about land claims, self-government, the meanings of traditional community names, and over 70 ways that caribou are used!

Are you concerned about the health of the land and water in the NWT? In "Taking Care of the Environment" you will learn about the problem of environmental contaminants, and what is being done about it. Be sure to check out the fact sheets that explain how contaminants affect our wildlife and traditional country foods. Teachers can even print out the whole set to use in class!

http://nwt-tno.inac-

# site for students and teachers



Teachers will also like the resource called "Take the Plunge". It's a curriculum developed to meet the need for northern-based high school science materials on the subject of water. It is divided into seven units that tie into curriculum themes taught in NWT Secondary School science and biology classes. Each unit provides teachers with background information, key words and concepts, required knowledge, activity instructions, materials/prop list, evaluation suggestions, additional resources or information on the subject, and extension activities. It's like a tidal wave of information at your finger tips!

Working with Aboriginal People

Many Uses for Caribou

The Northwest Territories Aboriginal people used all parts of the caribou for many purposes:

| | |
|---|---|
| hide | clothing, bedding, rope, moccasins, drum, tipi, tents, blankets, sinew, thread, tipi |
| hair | pillows, ropes, ornaments, hair pieces, brushes, medicine bags, dolls, stuffing |
| bones | paint brushes, arrowheads, scrapers, tools, war clubs, fishhooks, awls |
| horns | spoons, ladles, cups, fish lures, spoons, bows, toys |
| stomach lining | food wrapping, cups, bowls, pouches, containers |
| fat | cooking, lamps, lip balm, deodorant, waterproofing |
| gut | cord, line, sewing, snowshoe webbing, moccasins |
| skull | drums, rattles, prayers, altars |
| muscles | glue, thread, arrow ties, crochet, bow strings |
| tendons, heart | soup, stuffing, musical instruments, spoons |
| bladder | pouches, bags, water tins |
| dried dung | fuel, insect repellent |
| hoofs | ornaments, glue |
| tongue | food, snacks, treat |
| brains and liver | hide preparation, tanning |
| tendons | sewing, bow strings |
| head leg skin | protection, warmth |

Check out Youth Buzz and we will send you a cool carabiner with a high-powered mini flashlight! Just go the "Contact Us" section, and use our email link. Tell us what you think of Youth Buzz and be sure to include your name and mailing address!

ainc.gc.ca/youthbuzz

# Just Plain Fun

Stories are an important part of the culture of the Northwest Territories. Some stories teach us things about history, people and nature. Other stories are just fun to read. If you have a story to tell or an opinion to express, the Youth Buzz website gives you a chance to share it with others. Send your poetry, stories or articles to Youth Buzz. They will be reviewed and posted for others to read and enjoy. Who knows, this may be the start to your writing career! Visit the Youth Buzz site and find out more.

Here is one story that is already on the site... we'd like to add yours to the list!

## The Magic of the North

by Shoshanna

Once upon a time, there was a little boy named Max who lived in the North with his family. One day his parents died so he went to live with his grandfather. They had lots of fun together. One day his grandfather wanted to go camping in an igloo. Max was not sure that his grandfather was young enough for that sort of thing.

They set out on their adventure.

They began to build the igloo in the middle of the forest. Two hours later, Max's grandfather said he wanted to get some wood to make a fire. Max decided he would go with him and they set off to search for wood. Two hours later, his grandfather had a heart attack. Max did not know what to do. He thought about what he should do and then decided he needed to go and get help. He took his grandfather and everything they had brought and began to walk. He walked in the cold, deep snow.

Five hours later, Max was tired, but he heard a voice behind him. He turned around and saw a spirit in the form of a woman. She told him that she was the Queen of the North and that she helped people in trouble. She asked him, "How can I help you?" Max explained that his grandfather had had a heart attack and asked the Queen if she could help him. She said "Yes" and began to recite magic words.

One minute later, Max's grandfather regained consciousness and asked what had happened. Max said to him, "This lady right here woke you up." Max's grandfather asked, "What lady?" Max turned around to see she had disappeared.

Later that week, Max and his grandfather returned home and ate a great big supper.

There are more facts, games and activities on DIAND's Youth Buzz
**http://nwt.inac.gc.ca/youthbuzz**

## You were asking...

**Q** What is a settlement area?

**A** Each land claim agreement defines a settlement area for the particular Aboriginal group involved. This area includes the main area where the Aboriginal group traditionally lived and pursued their livelihood. Under the Final Agreement, certain lands known as "settlement lands", which generally are portions of the settlement area, are owned by the Aboriginal group. Some rights and benefits defined by the Final Agreement, such as rights to hunt and fish, or the right to be consulted on exploration and development, may extend to the whole settlement area.

Do you have a question about land or self-government negotiations in the NWT? We'd be happy to provide an answer. Contact the address listed below.

# OUR VISION

The NWT region of DIAND is a respected partner in a strong and healthy Northwest Territories.

We strive for:

- respectful, effective relationships with Aboriginal people;
- creating and enhancing opportunities for all Northerners;
- responsible resource development in healthy ecosystems;
- northern control over northern resources;
- responsive and accountable northern government as partners; and
- national initiatives that reflect the interests of all Northerners.

## On the web

Visit the following for more information:

**Government of Canada programs and services**
Government of Canada site:
www.gc.ca

**DIAND**
Northwest Territories Region site:
www.nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca

**Various claims agreements**
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada site:
www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/agr/index_e.html

***Plain Talk* on the web**
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada site:
www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nt/pt/index_e.html

**Here's who to contact:**
Roxane Poulin or Melissa Yu
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P.O. Box 1500, Yellowknife, NWT, X1A 2R3
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*Plain Talk* on Land and Self-government is produced by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in the NWT to help northerners understand these concepts, how they work, and what they mean in our day-to-day lives. It is not a legal document.